Dated:

Docket No.: 03404/000K075-US0

(PATENT)

FEB 1 1 2004 R

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Patent Application of: Masato Takahashi, et al.

Application No.: 09/998,621

Filed: November 30, 2001

For: SEALING ELEMENT, HERMETIC CONTAINER AND SEALING METHOD

THEREOF

Art Unit: 3727

Examiner: R. Hylton

FEB 1 9 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 12, 2003 (Paper No. 7), finally rejecting claims 1-10 and 12, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are attached as replacement sheets following page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.